

Private Stewardship Grants

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for private conservation efforts to be carried out on private lands, [\$7,386,000] \$9,400,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amount provided herein is for the Private Stewardship Grants Program established by the Secretary to provide grants and other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, candidate, or other at-risk species. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006.*)

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for national wildlife refuges as otherwise authorized by law. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Private Stewardship Grants	2005 Actual	2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Private Stewardship Grants \$(000) FTE	6,903 3	7,277 4	-	+2,123 -	9,400 4	+2,123 -
Administration	[345]	[364]			[470]	[+106]
Total, Private Stewardship Grants \$(000) FTE	6,903 3	7,277 4	-	+2,123 -	9,400 4	+2,123 -

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Private Stewardship Grants

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Private Stewardship Grants	+2,123	0
Total, Program Changes	+2,123	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Private Stewardship Grants is \$9,400,000 and 4 FTE, a net program increase of \$2,123,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Private Stewardship Grants (+\$2,123,000) - Additional resources for the Private Stewardship Grants program will support greater involvement of individuals and groups in imperiled species conservation efforts. This \$2,123,000 increase is a significant increase to a program aimed at assisting individuals with conservation actions on private lands; it will support many priority on-the-ground projects and studies, and will highlight the value of working with individuals in our partnerships for imperiled species conservation and recovery. In contrast to other grant programs, which usually support projects of third parties, groups and individuals themselves use the funds provided through the Private Stewardship Grants program for on-the-ground projects to conserve species on their property. Because most listed species depend on habitat found on private lands, the participation of private landowners is essential for successful imperiled species conservation efforts.

Private stewardship grants are an important source of funds for individuals and groups, many of whom have limited funding for imperiled species work, to undertake high priority needs and respond to unique opportunities. The use of Private Stewardship Grants funding is also critical to promoting voluntary conservation of "at risk species" (species not listed or officially identified as candidates under the ESA). In addition, in an attempt to achieve more effective conservation efforts, the Service intends to consider the priorities established in State Wildlife Conservation Plans when awarding grants, focusing on priority species and habitats.

Interest from private landowners in this program remains high; in fiscal year 2005, private landowners submitted 191 eligible proposals requesting approximately \$21,625,279 in funding. This level of request

reflects the increasing need to support voluntary, private conservation efforts throughout the country. To be eligible for private stewardship grant funds, a minimum of 10 percent of the cost of the project must be shared by a non-federal entity. The requested funds are leveraged through matching dollars to maximize the conservation benefit to imperiled species. This increase will support the Service in meeting the long-term goal of habitat conservation at both the species and landscape level, and the long-term goal of supporting fish, wildlife and plant populations.

The requested increase to the Private Stewardship Grant program will likely result in 5 additional unique candidate species and 28 additional unique listed species benefiting from the program in FY 2007.

Program Performance Change Table

<u>Total Performance Change</u>		<i>+5 candidate species benefiting from Private Stewardship Grant Project Awards</i> <i>+28 listed species benefiting from Private Stewardship Grant Project Awards</i>			
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D=A+B+C</u>	<u>E</u>
<i>Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007</i>					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
Increase the number of candidate species benefiting from Private Stewardship Grant Project Awards (BUR)	20	20	+5	25	TBD
Increase the number of listed species benefiting from Private Stewardship Grant Project Awards (BUR)	127	127	+28	155	TBD
Column B: The performance level expected to be achieved absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts.					
Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent outyear.					

Program Overview

Private Stewardship Grants fund conservation actions for imperiled species on private lands. Grants are available to individuals and groups to implement private land conservation actions to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. The participation of private landowners is essential for successful imperiled species conservation efforts because most listed species depend on habitat found on private lands. This grant assistance is crucial to garnering private landowner participation.

The Private Stewardship Grants Program contributes directly to the Service mission goals and associated long-term goals consistent with the Department's Unified Strategic Plan. The Service's associated mission goal is Resource Protection. The Department's relevant end outcome performance measures are the percent of threatened or endangered species listed a decade or more that are stable or improved, and the number of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions or agreements. The Endangered Species Program's long-term performance goals for the Private Stewardship Grants Program are (1) to increase the number of listed species benefiting from Private Stewardship grants, and (2) to increase the number of candidate species benefiting from Private Stewardship grants.



A Private Stewardship grant funded the propagation and outplanting of six endangered plant species in Pu'u-o-kali wiliwili dryland forest on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)

During Fiscal Year 2005, the Administration reviewed the Endangered Species Program (including the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and the Private Stewardship Grant Program) using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The PART examined the Program's purpose, planning, management, and most importantly, its performance and results. The assessment found that the program has a clear purpose to conserve threatened and endangered species and their habitats, however, the program lacks long-term outcome and annual output-oriented performance measures to reflect on the program's results. Additionally, the PART found:

- The program's effectiveness is limited by strict deadlines, regulatory measures that provide little biological benefit, and over-reliance on regulations rather than cooperative efforts. Changes in the program design and implementation could help to improve the effectiveness of the program.
- It is difficult to determine whether the program, including regulated activities, is effective, achieving results, and maximizing net benefits. Regularly scheduled, non-biased, independent program evaluations would help address this gap. Due to the nature of the program, evaluations of key components of the program that collectively cover the entire program will likely be appropriate.

In response to these PART findings, the Service will:

- Develop long-term outcome and annual output performance measures. Achievement of the outcome goals will depend on the efforts of many and require the Endangered Species program to continue working with partners.
- Ensure regulations and policies help improve the program's effectiveness. This may include revising the invalidated definition of adverse modification and issuing critical habitat guidance.
- Develop a process and timetable for regularly scheduled, non-biased, independent evaluations of the program or key components of the program that, collectively, cover the entire program.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- Private Stewardship grants are awarded through competition. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program, and the regional competitions conducted to select grants, allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.
- Continue to analyze results from previous years of the program in order to further refine program elements to better meet our performance goals.
- Awarded 72 projects in 38 states and 1 territory in FY 2005.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the second quarter of 2007 and anticipates making award announcements early in the fourth quarter of 2007. The Service expects to fund approximately 27 additional grants in FY 2007 as compared to the total number funded in FY 2006 (assuming the average grant award amount remains the same). The Service expects that five additional candidate species and 28 additional listed species will benefit from these grants in FY 2007 compared to FY 2006.

2006 Planned Program Performance

The request for proposals was published/announced to the public on November 22, 2005, and we anticipate making grant award announcements by May 2006. The Service expects that one additional candidate species and seven additional listed species will benefit from these grants in FY 2006 compared to FY 2005.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service issued a request for proposals on January 18, 2005, that included eligibility criteria and ranking factors. An outreach strategy was implemented to encourage individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts to apply for these grants. The Endangered Species and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs worked collectively to inform individuals and groups about the availability of these grants, and provided technical assistance to the individuals and groups who received the grant awards. Representatives from state governments, other federal agencies, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community were identified to serve as members of the diverse panels that made project funding recommendations to the Service. Project selections were announced in August 2005.

In FY 2005, the Service made awards to 72 projects in 38 states and 1 territory totaling more than \$5.7 million. Typical projects included managing nonnative, competing species; implementing measures to minimize risk from disease; restoring streams that support imperiled species; and planting native vegetation to restore a rare plant community. Several projects funded in FY 2005 through the program are listed below.

Following the discovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Arkansas, the Service set aside \$800,000 of the FY 2005 appropriation to fund a second call for proposals focused on projects that benefit the ivory-billed woodpecker. Awards for this second round of funding are expected to be made in the second quarter of FY 2006.

Examples of FY 2005 Program Awards include:

- **Pine Ecosystem Conservation (application by the American Forest Foundation in partnership with the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Environmental Defense) Multiple Counties in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi (\$140,000)** The American Forest Foundation will partner with Environmental Defense, the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and volunteers to restore fire-maintained southern pine communities, especially longleaf pine, in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. They will implement "on-the-ground" habitat restoration on family forest lands and encourage enrollment in Safe Harbor agreements to benefit the gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, black pine snake, and other at-risk species.
- **City of Kenai Wildlife Conservation Community Program (application by Safari Club International) Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska (\$90,000)** Safari Club will work with the City of Kenai, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Audubon Alaska, and S&R Sanitation to cost-share bear-proof garbage containers and other mitigation devices with approximately 500 homeowners, community groups, and small businesses. By reducing man-made food sources this project seeks to avoid associated human-caused mortality of the Kenai Peninsula brown bear. This project implements the findings of a pilot study funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003.
- **Students and Teachers Restoring Watersheds (application by Bay Institute of San Francisco) Marin and Sonoma Counties, California (\$63,600)** In partnership with private landowners, the Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, the Bay Institute of San Francisco will help restore functioning habitats to several creek ecosystems by planting native vegetation and stabilizing eroding banks to restore riparian habitats. A total of 3,200 linear feet of creek channel will be restored. Labor will be provided by the STRAW group, Students and Teachers Restoring Watersheds. STRAW was funded in 1998 from efforts by fourth graders working with ranchers to restore habitat for the endangered California freshwater shrimp. The restored habitat will benefit freshwater shrimp (*Syncaris pacifica*), Tomales roach, central California coastal steelhead, central California coast coho, California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and northwestern pond turtle.
- **Rare Species and Rich Fen Habitat Restoration (application by a private individual) Anoka County, Minnesota (\$44,755)** Approximately 23 acres of high quality wetland habitat will be restored and enhanced. Glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass and giant reed will be removed; soil surfaces scraped to remove reed canary genotypes and invasive seed bank; collect native species seeds on-site and disperse throughout the fen; and prescribed burning. Species that will benefit from the restoration include twisted yellow-eyed grass, cross-leaved milkwort, turbercle rein orchid and lance-leaved violet.
- **Canadian River Ecosystem for Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Project (application by National Wild Turkey Federation) Multiple Counties in Eastern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle (\$160,000)** The National Wild Turkey Federation will enhance habitat for lesser prairie chicken, Arkansas River shiner, mountain plover, and other species on private lands along the Canadian River and its tributaries in the Texas panhandle and eastern New Mexico. This will be accomplished by protecting intact mosaics of riparian ecosystems and restoring degraded riparian habitats. Proposed activities include riparian fencing, invasive species control, native plant revegetation, installation of grazing management systems to benefit the species, and prescribed fire.
- **Hacienda Central Pellejas (application by a private landowner) Puerto Rico (\$115,627)** The grantee will restore two miles of riparian habitat along the southeast tributaries of the Pellejas River in Puerto Rico, and implement a grazing management plan to benefit 12 listed or at-risk species. The

grantee will construct 200,000 linear feet of fencing, establish five livestock grazing areas within 200 acres of tropical uplands, remove exotic species, and plant 5,600 native trees along the riparian buffer zone. The project site is part of a landscape corridor connecting several Commonwealth Natural Reserves in the central mountains of Puerto Rico that will contribute to the recovery of several endangered species such as the Puerto Rican boa and the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk.

- Restoration of Swift Fox to Bad River Ranches (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) Stanley and Jones Counties, South Dakota (\$90,000)** The Turner Endangered Species Fund, working with South Dakota Game Fish & Parks, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, South Dakota Animal Husbandry Industry Board, South Dakota agriculture producers groups, Badlands National Park, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and Fort Pierre National Grasslands, will continue its work to re-establish a self-sustaining population of swift fox to a prairie ranch as part of a large prairie restoration program. The burrows to be created for the swift fox will also provide habitat for black-tailed prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets.
- Protection of Maternity Sites of the Endangered Gray Bat (application by the American Cave Conservation Association) Lee and Scott Counties, Virginia (\$14,219)** The American Cave Conservation Association will design and, in cooperation with the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, construct custom, state-of-the-art bat friendly gates to restrict access to two southwest Virginia caves, thus reducing disturbance to gray bat maternity colonies.
- Morgan Weir Prairie Restoration Project (application by The Nature Conservancy) Thurston County, Washington (\$61,952)** The Nature Conservancy will restore 130 acres of prairie habitat suitable for the colonization or introduction of seven at-risk animal species and establish new populations of two at-risk plant species; including one federally threatened and three species recently petitioned for emergency listing. The restoration effort will be guided by the South Puget Sound Prairie Landscape Site Conservation Plan - a regional plan that was produced through a cooperative effort of federal, state, and local agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and landowners. The land is adjacent to and will compliment the conservation area of the Fort Lewis Weir Prairie through the enhancement of a contiguous private property.

*Performance Overview*¹

Measure	2005 Plan	2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	2006 Enacted	2006 Change from 2005 Actual	2007 Request	2007 Change from 2006
Increase the number of candidate species benefiting from Private Stewardship Grant Project Awards. (BUR)	Establish baseline	19	n/a	20	+1	25	+5
Increase the number of listed species benefiting from Private Stewardship Grant Project Awards. (BUR)	Establish baseline	120	n/a	127	+7	155	+28

¹ The performance measures in this table include program-level workload measures. The program is developing new long-term outcome and annual output performance measures as a result of a PART review conducted in 2005. Additionally, the Department is undergoing a revision of its Strategic Plan which may also result in revised or new performance measures.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5495-0		2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:				
05.01	Private Stewardship Grants	6,085	7,970	9,400
05.02	Administration	281	350	430
10.00	Total new obligations	6,366	8,320	9,830

Budgetary resources available for obligation:				
21.40	Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	5,985	6,538	5,495
22.00	New budget authority (gross)	6,903	7,277	9,400
22.10	Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	16		
23.90	Total budgetary resources available for obligation	12,904	13,815	14,895
23.95	Total new obligations (-)	-6,366	-8,320	-9,830
24.40	Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year	6,538	5,495	5,065

New budget authority (gross) detail:				
Discretionary:				
40.20	Appropriation (special fund - LWCF) [14-5005-0-302-N-0512-01]	7,000	7,386	9,400
40.34	Appropriation temporarily reduced (HR 2863)		-35	
40.36	Unobligated balance permanently reduced		-74	
40.37	Appropriation temporarily reduced	-97		
43.00	Appropriation (total discretionary)	6,903	7,277	9,400

Change in obligated balances:				
72.40	Obligated balance, start of year	7,250	8,443	9,192
73.10	Total new obligations	6,366	8,320	9,830
73.20	Total outlays, gross (-)	-5,157	-7,571	-7,859
73.45	Recoveries of prior year obligations	-16	0	0
74.40	Obligated balance, end of year	8,443	9,192	11,163

Outlays, (gross) detail:				
86.90	Outlays from new discretionary authority	268	2,183	2,820
86.93	Outlays from discretionary balances	4,889	5,388	5,039
87.00	Total, outlays (gross)	5,157	7,571	7,859

Net budget authority and outlays:				
89.00	Budget authority	6,903	7,277	9,400
90.00	Outlays	5,157	7,571	7,859
95.02	Unpaid obligation, end of year	8,443	9,192	11,163

Object classification (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5495-0		2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Direct obligations:				
Personnel compensation:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	208	286	293
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	0	0	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	208	286	293
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	60	82	85
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	4	5	5
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	1	1
24.0	Printing	0	1	1
25.2	Other services	474	400	400
25.3	Purchases of good and services from government accts	0	5	5
26.0	Supplies and materials	0	6	6
31.0	Equipment	0	34	34
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	5,620	7,500	9,000
99.9	Subtotal, direct obligations	6,366	8,320	9,830

Personnel Summary

Identification code 14-5495-0		2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Total compensable workyears:				
1001	Full-time equivalent employment	3	4	4

Note: Amounts on this table (\$ thousands) may not agree with Budget Appendix amounts (\$ millions) due to rounding.